WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub a3

1. A method for removing ink-accepting areas from a printing master by laser ablation, characterized in that the printing master comprises a substrate which comprises a support and a base layer, wherein the base layer contains a crosslinked hydrophilic binder and a metal oxide.

2. A method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate by

(a) providing a substrate comprising a support and a base layer which contains a crosslinked hydrophilic binder and a metal oxide;

(b) applying one or more layer(s) on the base layer, thereby obtaining an imaging material;

(c) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposure of the imaging material to heat or light and optionally processing the imaging material;

(d) printing;

(e) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by laser ablation; and

(f) repeating steps (a) through (d).

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein the imaging material contains an image-recording layer which comprises hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles or an aryldiazosulfonate polymer.

4. The method according to claim 2 wherein during step (e) ablation debris and/or fumes are removed by a vacuum device.

5. The method according to claim 2 wherein the laser is an infrared laser.

6. The method according to claim 2 wherein the laser is a pulsed laser.

7. The method according to claim 2 wherein the metal is Ti, Zr, Hf, or a mixture thereof.

8. The method according to claim 2 wherein the base layer further comprises a hydroxide of the metal.

9. The method according to claim 2 wherein the support is a plastic support, an aluminum support, or a laminate of a plastic and an aluminum support.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the aluminum support is a grained and anodized aluminum support.